

Evaluating Accuracy

The accuracy of information found online can vary. Many people publish information that is not true or properly verified on purpose or because they do not know any better. If you are unsure of a source's credibility, you should always take the time to evaluate for accuracy.

Here are some steps you should take when evaluating the accuracy of a website:

HUFF POST SCIENCE

Volcano Extinction? Ancient Eruptions Tied To Species Die-Off That Let Dinosaurs Flourish

Posted: 03/22/2013 9:09 am EDT

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By: Tanya Lewis, LiveScience Staff Writer

Published: 03/21/2013 02:11 PM EDT on LiveScience

Massive volcanic eruptions may have led to the extermination of half of Earth's species some 200 million years ago, a new study suggests.

The release of gases from giant eruptions caused climate change that led to the End-Triassic Extinction, the widespread loss of land and sea species that made way for the [rise of the dinosaurs](http://www.livescience.com/22116-dinosaur-diversity-rocky-mountain-rise.html), the research says. The new study, published today (March 21) in the journal Science, shows that a set of major eruptions spanning from what is now New Jersey to Morocco occurred very close to the time of the extinction.

Scientists suspected previously that such volcanic activity and the resultant climate change were responsible for this major extinction and at least four others. But researchers weren't able to constrain the dates of the eruptions and extinctions well

Does the author provide evidence for claims made in the article?



Does the author link to or reference other credible studies, articles, or other sources? Some articles will also have works cited lists.



“[rise of the dinosaurs](http://www.livescience.com/22116-dinosaur-diversity-rocky-mountain-rise.html)” links to <http://www.livescience.com/22116-dinosaur-diversity-rocky-mountain-rise.html>

If your resource is accurate, you should still consider these other factors:

Errors	Review Process
Is the content full of spelling and grammatical errors? If so, it might be a sign that the author was not careful when evaluating the accuracy of information found during his/her research. Rushed writing could imply rushed researching!	Has the article been reviewed? Many journal articles are “peer-reviewed” by a group of experts. Many newspaper articles are reviewed by editors. The review process helps to ensure the accuracy of a source.